

OCTOBER 2014 NEWSLETTER

Flu Jabs

The flu jabs are now in and we have already given nearly 300 in the first two weeks. They came early this year and took us by surprise. If you are over 65 or in an at risk group, please contact the practice to book a flu jab appointment. Please note that these are booked at 2 minute intervals and we are unable to discuss any other issue at the same time. Please come in short sleeves if you can!

Children's Flu Immunisation

All children aged 2, 3 and 4 are being offered an intranasal flu immunisation. We are only able to order 20 vaccines a fortnight (national restriction). These only became available to order on 24th September. If your child falls into this category and you wish to have him/her vaccinated, please contact reception ASAP. We can only start to book clinics once we have the vaccine. Children in at risk groups (diabetes, asthma etc) up to the age of 17 can also have this vaccine. Appointments must be booked with Carmel as the doctors have not had the relevant training to administer these.

On Line Access

Just a quick reminder about on-line access for those over the age of 16. This enables you to book, cancel and change appointments at your convenience and also enables repeat prescription ordering.

Electronic Prescribing Service

Following on from the above, if you generally use the same pharmacist for repeat items, you can register with the pharmacist of your choice and your scripts will be delivered electronically to him/her. Please note that it is not possible at present to send controlled drug prescriptions electronically but we understand this might become available in 2015.

Breast Screening

The practice population is screened on a three yearly basis and we have just come to the end of our current screening. The uptake has dropped from 81% to 76%. This is a bit alarming as every practice screening does yield undiagnosed breast cancer. If you did not partake in this and would now like to do so, please contact the practice manager to arrange an appointment for a mammogram.

Bowel Screening

We are very pleased by the uptake in bowel cancer screening and encourage those invited to take part in this also. We will be sending letters out to those who declined just to see if we can persuade a few more. The earlier cancer is detected, the better the outcome in general.

Locum Cover

We are continuing to use locums to allow annual leave and time to perform the over 75 health checks and are very grateful for the high quality locums who are working here – we are hoping that one might decide to stay!